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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/890,202	11/05/2001	Stefan Grimm	RD1D001046US	7800
6449	7590	05/05/2004	EXAMINER	
ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, P.C. 1425 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20005			NGUYEN, QUANG	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1636		

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

28

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/890,202	GRIMM ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Quang Nguyen, Ph.D.	1636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 17-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 28 and 29 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 17-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 30 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/1/04 has been entered.

Amended claims 17-30 are pending in the present application.

Claim Objections

Claims 22 and 30 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. This is because silica gel is broader in scope than silicon dioxide support material. Please note that silica gel also includes sodium silicate which is not silicon dioxide.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informality: On page 8, the sentence starting from line 9 to line 12 is incomplete.

Appropriate correction is required.

Response to Applicants' amendment

The art rejections of record are withdrawn in light of Applicants' amendment.

Written Description

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Amended claims 17-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. **This is a new ground of rejection.**

Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar, 19USPQ2d 1111 (Fed. Cir. 1991), clearly states that "applicant must convey with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that, as of the filing date sought, he or she was in possession of the *invention*. The invention is, for purposes of the 'written description' inquiry, *whatever is now claimed*." *Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar*, 19USPQ2d at 1117. The specification does not "clearly allow persons of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that [he or she] invented what is claimed." *Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar*, 19USPQ2d at 1116.

Applicant's invention is drawn to a method for isolating and purifying nucleic acids and/or oligonucleotides from a biological sample or a method for isolating and purifying nucleic acid and/or oligonucleotide composition suitable for use in the

treatment of genetic disease, said method comprises the steps of using potassium acetate, an alcoholic solution containing a detergent and a silicon dioxide support material for the isolation or purifying nucleic acids and/or oligonucleotides with reduced endotoxin content or free of endotoxin. Applicants' invention is also drawn to a method of transfecting eukaryotic or prokaryotic cells with nucleic acids or oligonucleotides prepared by the methods of the presently claimed invention. The claims encompass a method for isolating or purifying nucleic acids and/or oligonucleotides with reduced endotoxin content or free of endotoxin utilizing a step deploying an alcoholic solution containing any detergent.

However, apart from the exemplification showing that the step of isopropanol or acetone wash in the presence of SDS is critical for reducing the endotoxin or LPS content in purified plasmid DNA (see Figure 1), the instant specification fails to teach any other detergents that have the same or similar property as SDS in an alcoholic solution to reduce the endotoxin or LPS content in purified plasmid DNA. At the effective filing date of the present application (1/29/1999), the prior art does not teach the use of any detergent in an alcoholic solution to precipitate endotoxin or LPS present in a nucleic acid and/or oligonucleotide sample as evidenced by the teachings of Colpan et al. (U.S. Patent 6,297,371; Cited previously); Hillebrand et al. (US 2001/0041332; IDS). Moreover, even 4 years after the effective filing date of the present application, Applicants still only reported that SDS as a detergent that has similar amphipathic structure as that of LPS, and allowing them to interact in isopropanol to form LPS/SDS complex to be removed by subsequent centrifugation step (Grimm et al., Methods in

Mol. Biol. 235:83-87, 2003). Therefore, at the effective filing date of the present application, Applicants failed to provide sufficient description for a representative number of species of a broad genus of a detergent that is capable of mediating the formation of a LPS/detergent complex in an alcoholic solution to be utilized in the methods as claimed.

The claimed invention as a whole is not adequately described **if the claims require essential or critical elements which are not adequately described in the specification.** Possession may be shown by actual reduction to practice, clear depiction of the invention in a detailed drawing, or by describing the invention with sufficient relevant identifying characteristics such that a person skilled in the art would recognize that the inventor had possession of the claimed invention. Pfaff v. Wells Electronics, Inc., 48 USPQ2d 1641, 1646 (1998). A skilled artisan cannot fully envision the detailed structure of a broad genus of a detergent that has similar amphipathic structure of LPS or endotoxin to be utilized in the methods as claimed other than SDS, and therefore conception is not achieved until reduction to practice has occurred, regardless of the complexity or simplicity of the method. Adequate written description requires more than a mere statement that it is part of the invention and reference to a potential method of isolating it. See *Fiers v. Revel*, 25 USPQ2d 1601, 1606 (Fed. Cir. 1993) and *Amgen Inc. v. Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.*, 18 USPQ2d 1016 (Fed. Cir. 1991). One cannot describe what one has not conceived. See *Fiddes v. Baird*, 30 USPQ2d 1481, 1483.

Applicant is reminded that *Vas-Cath* makes clear that the written description provision of 35 U.S.C. §112 is severable from its enablement provision (see page 1115).

Conclusion

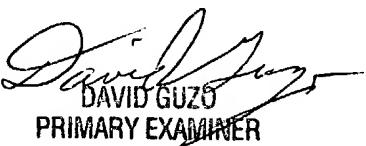
Claims 28-29 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quang Nguyen, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0776.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's mentor, David Guzo, Ph.D., may be reached at (571) 272-0767, or SPE, Irem Yucel, Ph.D., at (571) 272-0781.

To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit 1636; Central Fax No. (703) 872-9306.

Quang Nguyen, Ph.D.



DAVID GUZO
PRIMARY EXAMINER